

Message Text

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17

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00

USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02 NSC-05 PA-01

RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 AID-05 OMB-01 SAJ-01 ACDA-05

IO-10 /071 W

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O P 221139Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9027

INFO CINCPAC HONOLULU HI IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY SAIGON PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L PHNOM PENH 1327

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MOPS, CB

SUBJECT: TWENTY-SECOND DAY OF KC DRY SEASON OFFENSIVE

REF: PHNOM PENH 1273

1. SUMMARY: A MEKONG RIVER CONVOY CROSSED THE SOUTH VIETNAMESE BORDER LATE JAN. 21 AND AT LATEST REPORT IS NEAR NEAK LUONG. THE KC ATTACKS BY FIRE AGAINST POCHENTONG AIRFIELD ARE CONTINUING AND BECOME MORE ACCURATE.
END SUMMARY.

2. THE FIRST MEKONG RIVER CONVOY SINCE DEC. 28 CROSSED THE SOUTH VIETNAMESE BORDER INTO CAMBODIA THE EVENING OF JAN. 21. THE CONVOY CONSISTS OF TWO AMMUNITION BARGES, THREE TUGS AND KHMER NAVY ESCORT CRAFT. THE CONVOY IS NOW REPORTED TO BE NEARING NEAK LUONG, AND, ALTHOUGH RECEIVING ATTACKS BY FIRE ENROUTE, HAS SUFFERED NO CASUALTIES AND NO SIGNIFICANT DAMAGE. (IT DID LOSE SEVERAL SHIELD BARGES, HOWEVER.) AT ONE POINT DURING THE MORNING OF JAN. 22, THE CONVOY EXPERIENCED MECHANICAL PROBLEMS AND
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THE CAPTAINS OF THE AMMO BARGES, CLAIMING CONTINUOUS

ATTACKS BY FIRE, WANTED TO TURN BACK. THEY ULTIMATELY DECIDED TO PUSH ON, HOWEVER, AND THE CONVOY WILL CONTINUE TOWARD PHNOM PENH TONIGHT.

3. THE KC CONTINUE TO SHELL POCHENTONG AND MANY OF THEIR ROUNDS, WHICH PREVIOUSLY WERE FALLING SHORT, ARE NOW LANDING WITHIN THE AIRFIELD. DURING THE EARLY MORNING OF JAN. 22, THE KC FIRED 28 ROUNDS OF WHAT ARE BELIEVED TO BE EITHER 105MM HOWITZER FIRE OR 107MM MORTARS. SOME OF THESE ROUNDS FELL INSIDE POCHENTONG, BUT CAUSED MINIMAL DAMAGE. AT NOON JAN. 22, HOWEVER, FIVE 107MM ROCKETS HIT POCHENTONG, WOUNDING FIVE PERSONS AND SLIGHTLY DAMAGING ONE COMMERCIAL DC-4. SUBSEQUENTLY TWO MORE 107MM ROCKETS LANDED IN THE AIRBASE, REPORTEDLY CAUSING NO DAMAGE.

4. THERE WAS LITTLE CHANGE IN THE PHNOM PENH AREA OR ELSEWHERE IN THE COUNTRY, ALTHOUGH HEAVY FIGHTING TOOK PLACE AT SEVERAL POINTS AROUND THE CAPITAL AND FANK FORCES AGAIN INFILCTED HEAVY CASUALTIES NEAR NEAK LUONG.
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Message Attributes

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